

BEHOLD YOUR LITTLE ONES

I have always been touched by the scriptural passages that describe the Savior's interactions with children. He always wanted them to stay with Him, and He stated over and over that we must become "as little children" to enter the kingdom of God (see Matthew 18:3–4). I felt that His special moment with the children in the land Bountiful after His resurrection (as described in the Book of Mormon) encapsulated the essence of His attitude toward children (see 3 Nephi 17:20–25). Many songs have alluded to that moment, but I never felt like the children had ever told the story from their perspective. I wondered how their testimonies were affected by that experience and what they would say about it. Who better than a group of Primary children to tell us this story?

When we first introduced this song to the Primary, our chorister had the idea to have all of the teachers go outside the door and get an electric candle. She then turned off the light and had the children close their eyes. Then she read the lyrics of the song to the children. As she read, the teachers came in with their candles and surrounded the children. The children opened their eyes to find themselves "encircled by fire." It was a powerful spiritual moment for both the children and the teachers. I hope that children feel the Savior's love for them as they sing this song, but I suspect that their parents will feel as the ancient parents felt when Christ spoke, "Behold your little ones" (3 Nephi 17:23).

Tips

- For the descant in the final chorus, select a group of older children with strong voices. The descant harmony is only there if you want to get really zealous about it.

Performance Suggestions

- Solos by multiple children seem very nice in this song for the verses as you envision them all telling the story of the Savior's visit.